

Dear Mr. Nelson,

We are writing to express our comment/concerns regarding the Westerly Comprehensive Plan:

You may first want to ask those who submitted this plan, why was the February 2018 Comprehensive Plan Draft with supporting documents placed on the Westerly Town's Website replaced? A 2019 Plan draft was submitted to our Town Council. We were not aware, as were most resident taxpayers, that a "new official draft plan" had replaced the 2018 plan. Further, we are unaware of any Planning Board Minutes on our town website to explain these changes. It appears a large part of this "new plan" was constructed by professionals who are not residents or taxpayers of our town. Westerly has a number of well educated professionals who reside right here, and want to maintain their quality of life, and want to take part in this process. Why not let them?

Why was "Form based Code" thrown into the mix when we, most residents, including our own town council members, had never heard the term; had no idea what the term meant or what implications this would have for the future zoning of our town, including 19 new neighborhood plans. Obviously, those who submitted the plan did. Our residents want to maintain our quality of life and the character of our neighborhood. Let us keep our current zoning ordinance in effect.

This Comprehensive Plan should NOT be adopted until the Plan ensures consistency with the goals and intent established in the Comprehensive Planning Act, and State Guide Plan.

A Citizens Advisory Committee must be involved; studies, plans and reports on the needs and resources of the community are required and need to be made transparent to all our citizens.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Respectfully,  
Pauline R. Panatieri  
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Westerly, RI 02891